

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A kit for the collection and preservation of a saliva sample for subsequent assay of a biologic therein comprising:

a container;

a saliva collection device, ~~the device including suction means and an exterior surface and having a salivation catalyst positioned directly on the exterior surface~~ consisting of a transfer pipette having a compression end and an intake end and a salivation catalyst positioned directly on the intake end; and

a preservative solution retained within said container.

2. (Original) The kit of claim 1, wherein the container comprises a resealable tube.

3. (Original) The kit of claim 2, wherein the resealable tube comprises a polyethylene transfer vial.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The kit of claim 1, wherein the salivation catalyst comprises a food flavoring.

6. (Original) The kit of claim 5, wherein the food flavoring is selected from a group consisting of lemon, peppermint, spearmint and orange flavorings.

7. (Original) The kit of claim 1, wherein the preservative solution comprises:  
sodium chloride,  $\text{NaHPO}_4$  and  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$  in an aqueous concentration to provide a 50mM phosphate solution; and

0.5 - 2.0g sodium benzoate.

8. (Original) The kit of claim 7, wherein the preservative solution comprises a pH of 6.2.

9. (Original) The kit of claim 1, wherein the preservative solution comprises a fungicide.

10. (Original) The kit of claim 1, wherein the preservative solution comprises a bactericide.

11. (Currently amended) A method of assaying for a biological comprising the steps of:

providing a container;

providing a preservative solution within the container;

providing a saliva collection device; ~~the device including suction means and an exterior surface and having a salivation catalyst positioned directly on the exterior surface~~ consisting of a

transfer pipette having a compression end and an intake end and a salivation catalyst positioned directly on the intake end;

collecting at a first location a saliva sample directly from a mouth of a user using the saliva collection device by placing the intake end of the transfer pipette into a user's mouth and drawing a fluid saliva sample into the intake end of the transfer pipette;

depositing the saliva collection device having the saliva sample into the container; and  
sealing the container having the saliva collection device against spillage and tampering.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of shipping the container having the saliva collection device to a second location.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of assaying the saliva sample and preservative solution subsequently for a biologic at a second location.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of assaying the saliva sample and preservative solution subsequently for a biologic at a second location.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the container comprises a resealable tube.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the resealable tube comprises a polyethylene transfer vial.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the salivation catalyst comprises a food flavoring.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the food flavoring is selected from a group consisting of lemon, peppermint, spearmint and orange flavorings.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the preservative solution comprises:

sodium chloride,  $\text{NaHPO}_4$  and  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$  in an aqueous concentration to provide a 50mM phosphate solution; and

0.5 - 2.0g sodium benzoate.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the preservative solution comprises a fungicide.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the preservative solution comprises a bactericide.